Appl. No. Amdt. dated January 9, 2006 Preliminary Amendment

## **REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

The specification has been conformed to correspond to the preferred format for U.S. patent applications, and a Substitute Specification and Comparison Copy are submitted herewith.

Claims 1-21 are pending.

Amendment is made to eliminate all multiple dependencies from the claims, thereby avoiding the need to pay the multiple dependent surcharge.

## **CONCLUSION**

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 415-576-0200.

Respectfully submitted,

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